

as much as in his most important one. Tony leaves behind a wonderful wife and beautiful daughter. Over the years, my family grew close to Tony's. Our daughters are just a few years apart. We spent a great deal of time talking about the joys of fatherhood and our hopes and dreams for our daughters.

Shortly before Tony passed away, the two of us had an unforgettable discussion at his bedside. But as it became painfully clear that the end was near, Tony kept his love of life and sense of humor until the very end.

He explained to me what would happen if all politicians and leaders had received the same diagnosis he had. It would be amazing how quickly the mountains we've built between ourselves would come down. We'd realize that the important things—family, community, friends—really outshine everything else. Tony's words are an important lesson for us all.

His memory will continue to live in each of us and grow stronger as the days go by. The greatest tribute we can pay to this man is to care for our community, to fulfill our civic duties, love and support our families, and to understand his lesson.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues today to share with me in recognizing the accomplishments of a dear friend, Tony Griffin.

CHALLENGING WARD VALLEY RADIOACTIVE DUMP

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, along with Senator BARBARA BOXER and others in California, I have long been raising strong concerns about Ward Valley, the proposed nuclear waste dump being promoted for southern California. Not only are there serious questions about the environmental safety of the proposed facility, but now legitimate questions have been raised about whether the dump is really required at all.

Interior Secretary Babbitt and Deputy Secretary Garamendi have been taking the prudent approach, ordering additional environmental reviews based on credible questions about the potential leakage of highly radioactive wastes that could transmute and contaminate the Colorado River. Nuclear waste experts have declared that there is no need to build expensive new waste dumps as there is adequate storage capacity for low level wastes in existing facilities.

The pressure to move forward is coming from Governor Wilson of California and several of the industries that are also adamant about building Ward Valley. But even executives of the company that wants to build and operate Ward Valley have told numerous congressional staffs that there is no national capacity shortage for low level nuclear wastes.

Public opinion in California is growing in opposition to the Ward Valley facility. I hope that my colleagues will read the editorial from the Contra Costa Times of January 26 that rightly calls for caution before proceeding with this costly and potentially hazardous facility.

[From the Contra Costa Times, Jan. 26, 1998]

USE CAUTION IN THE DESERT

Neither Gov. Wilson nor anti-nuclear activists like the idea of more testing at Ward

Valley. But the Interior Department's plan to find out just how dangerous radioactive wastes are to the water supply merely makes good sense.

The Interior Department last week approved the tests at Ward Valley, a 1000-acre stretch of desert in the Mojave Desert, 20 miles west of the Colorado River and the town of Needles. For more than a decade there have been plans to dispose of so-called "low-level" radioactive wastes on 80 acres at the site. The waste would come from California, Arizona and North and South Dakota.

Low-level wastes include irradiated mice and gloves from research hospitals and pharmaceutical laboratories. There have been reports that Ward Valley also would get worn out parts from nuclear power plants, and materials with a "half-life" of 24,000 years. Currently nuclear waste is shipped for disposal at the nation's three dumps in Utah and South Carolina.

Before the dump can be approved, and used, the federal government must turn over the land to the state government. The Clinton administration has balked from the start at doing this, citing safety concerns. The Colorado River, they note, is a drinking source for millions of people.

Wilson claims enough tests have been run and that the site is safe. Clinton, noting leaks at dumps in Nevada, wants to be sure. His administration particularly wants to be convinced that the waste won't leach into groundwater 650 feet below the surface, and thence to the river. That is what the new tests would ascertain.

While the discussion over safety has been bubbling, information has surfaced that there may no longer be a need for Ward Valley, or for similar sites proposed for Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas. A study by University of Nebraska economist Gregory Hayden asserts that there has been a 16-year decline in the volume of low level nuclear waste being disposed of in current dumps, and that their profitability would be threatened by Ward Valley. Some proponents of the dump have questioned Hayden's research.

In addition, new technology allowing for wastes to be compressed has increased storage capacity at Utah and South Carolina.

Given all these questions, it is hardly out of line to let the new tests proceed. And while the tests are going forth, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who is the desert's greatest friend in Congress, has called for studies to see if Ward Valley is necessary at all. That, too, is prudent, before the state spends a ton of money developing it.

Ward Valley may yet end up as a site for disposing of nuclear waste. If it does, let's make sure that the materials to be deposited there pose no threat. Twenty-four thousand years is a long time for a water supply to be contaminated.

FUND-RAISING SCANDAL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the December 4, 1997, edition of the *Omaha World-Herald*, entitled "Probe of Fund-Raising Scandal Snuffed on Narrowest Grounds."

PROBE OF FUND-RAISING SCANDAL SNUFFED ON NARROWEST GROUNDS

Attorney General Janet Reno used astonishingly narrow grounds to excuse her deci-

sion not to seek an independent counsel in the White House fund-raising scandal.

Even Louis Freeh, a former federal judge who is Ms. Reno's FBI director, urged the attorney general in effect to take off her political blinders and acknowledge the appearance of wrongdoing.

Ms. Reno chose to focus on campaign fund-raising phone calls that President Clinton and Vice President Gore made from the White House. She said the money raised by those calls did not go directly to the Clinton-Gore 1996 re-election campaign. Her tortured reasoning is that the money went to the Democratic National Committee for general political use and, therefore, was not covered by the law prohibiting candidates from raising campaign funds on federal property.

What about DNC documents indicating that significant chunks of the money Gore raised were transferred to his campaign? Never mind, says Ms. Reno; the vice president didn't know about that. Even on the narrow grounds that Ms. Reno used as a basis for her decision, her judgment is suspect.

An independent counsel—not a Clinton appointee—ought to determine what the vice president knew.

By limiting her attention to the narrow issue of the White House telephones, Ms. Reno ignored Clinton's role in coffees, sleepovers and the vast web of donors set up by John Haug, Charlie Trie and other operatives with ties to the Lippo group and the government of China.

She ignored the videotape on which Clinton explained to donors how they could get around limitations on direct contributions by giving unlimited amounts to the DNC. Ms. Reno may be the only person in the nation who still believes that the Clinton-Gore campaign kept its required legal distance from the DNC.

Ms. Reno also ignored serious allegations of wrongdoing involving the White House China connection. There are indications that the Chinese government had a purpose in using Huang, among others, to make illegal campaign contributions to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. Someone needs to find out what the Chinese expected in return.

Chinese intelligence agents boasted about "thwarting" a Senate investigation headed by Tennessee Republican Fred Thompson, who had set out to expose Chinese involvement in the '96 campaign. Lack of cooperation by the White House, the FBI and the Justice Department foiled the Thompson committee's inquiry.

Yet Ms. Reno sees no need for independent review—no need, apparently, to look at other serious allegations, including:

Whether the DNC arranged illegal foreign donations to then-Teamsters President Ron Carey in return for the Teamsters' financial and political support of Clinton-Gore '96.

Whether the White House shook down Indian tribes in Oklahoma seeking the return of tribal lands and overturned Interior Department approval of an Indian casino project along the Wisconsin-Minnesota border because tribes that already operated casinos in the area gave the DNC \$300,000.

Whether the DNC funneled \$32 million to state parties with orders to spend it on the Clinton-Gore campaign, thereby exceeding federal campaign spending limits.

Whether Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary met with a delegation of Chinese businessmen in return for a \$25,000 contribution to the charity of her choice.

Until The Washington Post wrote about it, Ms. Reno's staff did not know that money raised from the vice president's office had been spent directly on the vice president's campaign. Yet Ms. Reno focused only on the telephones. Her unfortunate decision left the